

### State of Illinois Bruce Rauner, Governor











## **Illinois Department of Transportation**

Randall S. Blankenhorn, Secretary

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# **IDOT Announces Completion of I-74 Project in Morton**

Increased safety, connectivity for motorists in west central Illinois

**PEORIA** – Illinois Transportation Secretary Randy Blankenhorn was joined today by Morton Mayor Ron Rainson to announce the completion of a widening and reconstruction project on Interstate 74 in Morton and Tazewell County.

"Traveling I-74 in this area is now a safer experience for motorists," Secretary Blankenhorn said. "These improvements will make this a great route to travel for several generations. Thank you for your patience while we delivered this project that will be a cornerstone for strengthening transportation in west central Illinois."

The project consisted of reconstructing and widening I-74 to three lanes in each direction from Pleasant Hill Road to Morton Avenue, modernizing the interchange with I-155 into a safer configuration and improving the entrance and exit ramps at Morton Avenue. Six bridges on I-74 were replaced. New lighting and drainage improvements also were installed.

The additional lanes constructed on I-74 improve connectivity for the 30,000 to 40,000 vehicles that travel through the corridor each day.

But the most visible improvements of the project took place at the I-155 interchange. The interchange and vehicles on I-74 now travel under I-155 instead of over it, eliminating a difficult merge for vehicles exiting northbound I-155 onto eastbound I-74.

The Morton Avenue improvements also improve safety, courtesy of modernized traffic signals now in place at the ramps from I-74. The new eastbound I-74 ramp configuration eliminates the need to yield and merge into traffic on northbound Morton Avenue.

Click here to view drone footage of the completed project.